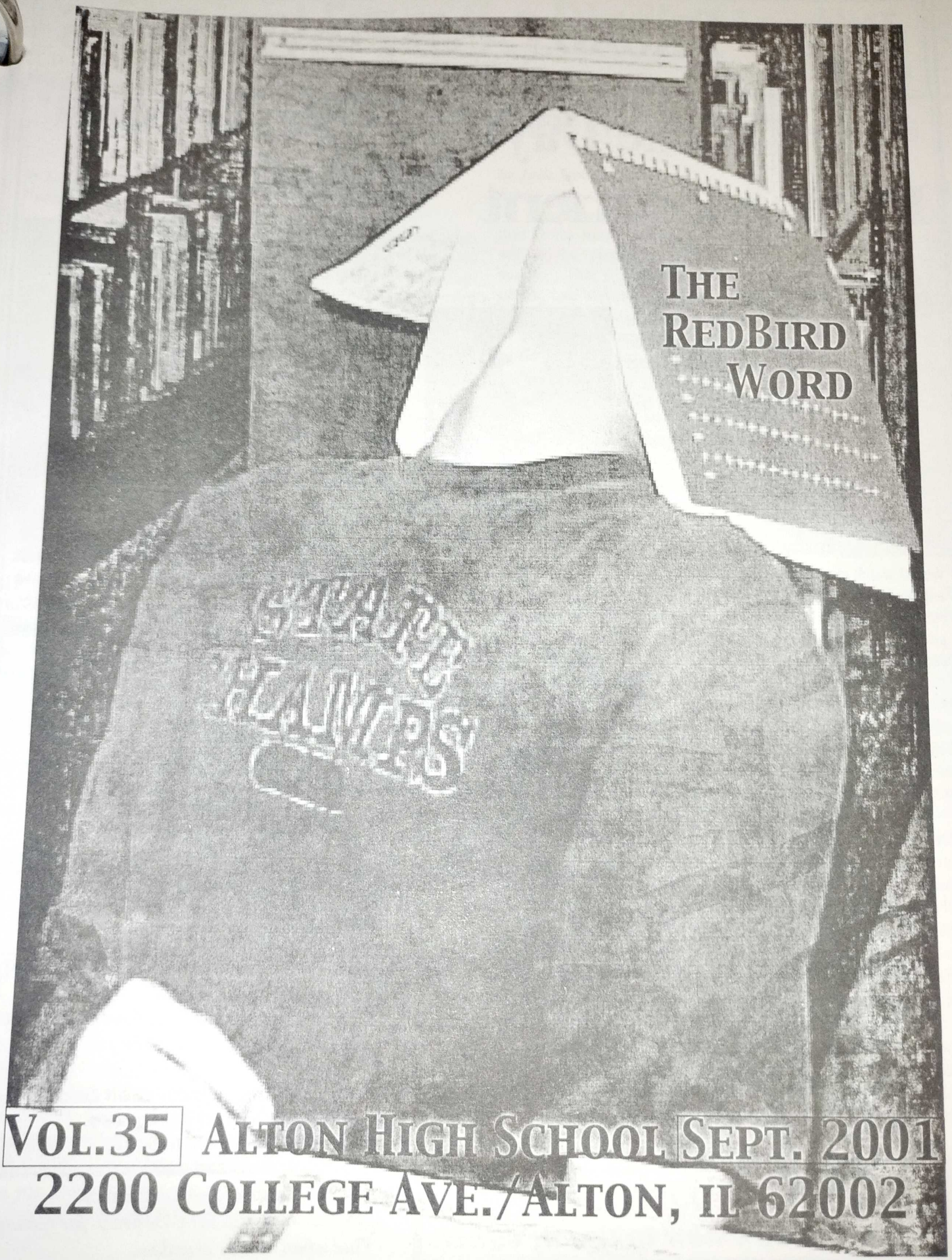

THE REDBIRD WORD

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RBW

PUSHY BROADS AND POWER TRIPS

September 2001

Word of the Day: Disillusionment

by Alison Hanold
Editor-in-Chief

When I was a little kid, I would wake up early on Saturday mornings to watch *Pee Wee's Playhouse*. He was so amazing; he had no bedtime or rules, and best of all, a talking couch and that super-cool huge ball of tin foil.

What I found out when I grew up was that Pee Wee's alter-ego Paul Reubens was a pervert, and what had made me giggle hysterically as a child actually came from a somewhat sick mind.

When I was in middle school, I would watch movies like *Clueless* and think of how great my high school experience would be. Me and my multitude of very best friends would strut our stuff around campus in the cutest clothes with our amazingly good-looking boyfriends, and everyone would turn and gaze at us because we were, quite possibly, the very coolest people they had ever seen.

What I soon found out was that high school was a place where you were either a specific kind of person, molded and "flawless," or you could, well, *not* be molded and not fit in. I chose the latter. I'm not saying there is anything wrong with being one of those typically accepted as ideal, I just know that my own personality and style would not exactly qualify me to be Alton High's answer to Alicia Silverstone.

Now that I am at the beginning of my senior year and preparing for my future, I think I'm a little more mature about my own mental picture of college, but my peers may have a different view of the future. A quick synopsis, if you will: We will go away to college and become extremely popular wherever we go. We'll party day and night, (after all, that is what college is about) and still manage to make straight A's without having to work all that hard. Reality check: We will all have to make friends based on who we *are*, not who we *were*. And sure, partying day and night is an option, but not if we actually want to *stay* in college.

What's my point, you ask? Great expectations don't always deliver. We should prepare ourselves for our realistic futures, and leave the preconceived notions in Pee Wee's Playhouse where they belong.

Brought to you by the semicolon. We don't know how to use it; either.

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OUR MISSION 2001-2002

"News with a purpose... to inform, enlighten, and entertain."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

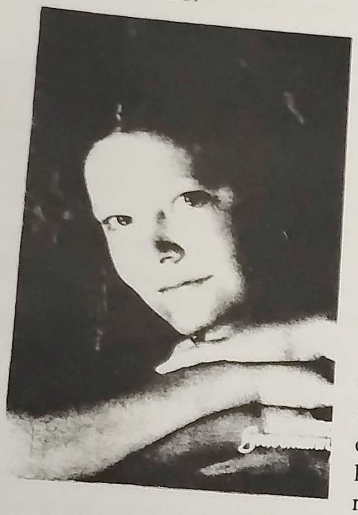
The RedBird Word staff would love to hear you feedback. Please send any comments, questions, complaints, or ideas to Mrs. Brave's room, 401.

Alton Senior High School
2200 College Ave.
Alton, IL 62002

Cover Designed by Alison Hanold
Special thanks to Mrs. Downey- for having a clue when no one else does.

"Back in the old days...."

by Laura Griffith
Features Editor



Upon entering Alton High as a freshman, the scene was, to say the least, intimidating. Everyone seemed so much bigger, and so much older than the kids I had gone to school with for the past nine years. High school was a scary, new world to me, but nevertheless I was determined to make the best of it.

As the years went by, I got used to my high school routine. Everyday I woke up, got dressed, tried to make myself look presentable, then I rushed to the neighbor's house so I wouldn't miss my ride to school. Slowly but surely, the intimidation I had felt in the beginning began to fade away. I met new people, made new friends, and came to the realization that maybe high school wasn't so bad after all.

My junior year I was excited to finally become one of those upperclassmen I had admired as a freshman. To my surprise, I didn't feel any different than I had as a sophomore. My class had been the first to be denied the privilege of parking in the Pit as juniors. I continued to park uptown and walk to school everyday like I had the previous year.

Now that my senior year has arrived, I can hardly believe it! Do I really feel like an upperclassman? To tell you the truth, I am not sure that I do. Maybe the feeling just hasn't hit me yet. One thing I have noticed, however, is that the freshmen this year do not look as small compared to the way my friends and I felt three years ago. I wonder, do they feel intimidated by us?

In a few years, the class of 2005 will become seniors, and they will be looking back on their first memories here at Alton High. They'll probably be wondering, like some of us are, if they feel any different.

To tell you the truth, there aren't very many differences in some cases, except the age of course. So why spend your years in high school trying to worry about fitting in? Just relax for once, and enjoy Alton High to the best of your abilities. Before you know it, these years will all be over. Once they are gone, you can never get them back.

Not My Mary Janes

by Julie Strassman
Senior Editor

Summer 2001. The summer that *Vogue* magazine has cleverly entitled the "summer of skin." The summer that's given us micro-minis, one shouldered tank tops, super low cut jeans, a major revival of spaghetti straps, short shorts, pre-slashed jeans, and the corsetted look. Not to mention what is possibly the most idiotic Pepsi commercial known to man, starring Britney Spears. But now school has begun, and while summer isn't officially over yet, summer fashions at AHS are. What were the hottest looks over vacation, are now the best way to get dragged down to the office to don new apparel. Even for those of us who wouldn't be caught dead in spaghetti straps, the recent crack down on the dress code is disturbing.

The way we dress is an important part of our personality. It shows what we're interested in, who we admire and wish to be like, our view of ourself, and our sense of style. It's one of the first things people notice and even helps define how we group and label each other. Dress is the most common form of self-expression, one that all of us exhibit, which means that prohibiting one style of dress is a potential threat to everyone's individuality. Military garb, for example, is banned because the administration is worried it will promote violence and neo Nazism.

While this may be well meant, we have to wonder, what will be next? Could shirts for bands who promote violence be the next thing to go? Slim Shady's gay bashing doesn't exactly promote tolerance and understanding. Or maybe goth? Who knows what exposure to that much black could do to young impressionable minds. Rave ties in with the club scene, which of course means the rampant use of strobe lights and Ecstasy. That's got to go. And lets not forget about the swim team's uniforms. Sure we're going for a stream lined look here but those Speedo's look needlessly skimpy. OK, maybe I'm exaggerating, but it seems like we're losing more of our right to be creative and different every year.

PBIS constantly bombards us with the statement that we are all unique and special, yet school policy limits us in the most basic from of self expression. Does the word hypocrisy come to mind for anyone else? All I can say to the dress code is, you can keep spaghetti straps, but stay away from my silver Mary Janes.

I'm Not as Think as You Drunk I Am

by Elaine Myers

Everyday approximately eight young people die in alcohol related accidents. The families of these victims go through much pain, grief, and suffering all because someone chose to drink and drive.

The legal age to drink is 21 in all fifty states. In Illinois, if an under aged person is caught drinking then they are in violation of the "Zero Tolerance Law." This law states that the Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) of a person under the age of 21 should remain at 0.00. However, a person over the legal age is still allowed to drive as long as their BAC remains below 0.08. If any trace of alcohol is found in a young person's system, driving or not, then they are in violation of the law and could possibly have their driving privileges revoked.

"I think that if you are going to break the law, then you should have to pay the consequences," said Alton High School senior Tayhlor Jenkins, when asked her opinion on the "Zero Tolerance Law."

There are many legal consequences of under aged drinking and driving, the highest of those being a class four felony. A class four felony is an accident resulting in great bodily harm or permanent disfigurements. With the class four felony, the consequences includes loss of full driving privileges for a minimum of six years, a possible imprisonment for one to three years, and a maximum fine of $10,000

J2 Rakes in the Cash

by Adam Betz
News Editor

Journalism students returned to school this year with a very pleasant surprise. This past year, Alton Community School District 11 applied for two learn and serve grants and has been notified that both will be funded.

One of the grants that has been awarded is to be given to the second year journalism students here at Alton High School. The purpose of the grant is to give high school journalists a "real world" writing experience and prepare them for the future.

To actually receive the grant, the J2 class must send a handful of students to a luncheon for small businesses and help one of them in making a brochure to advertise their services.

The other grant is to be given to Mrs. Hawkins' computer class. That grant will be used for a project called "Computers to Santiago, Chile." The program is for incorporating Spanish students as translators during video conferencing.

The grant for the journalism students came to a total of $5,750 and the computer class grant is worth $5,904. The money for the journalism grant will be used to buy new equipment and to work with small businesses to construct brochures, press releases, and newspapers articles.

"These projects were chosen because they are both very unique," said Kristie Baumgartner, District Grant Writer. "It has been a wonderful experience working with both teachers," said Baumgartner.

5A's Working Hard to Save Our Strays

by Adam Harrow

Stray animals roam the streets day and night with nowhere to go and no one to take care of them. Most of them are not there by choice but by negligence of humans. The 5A's shelter knows this all too well.

Everyday they see the cruelty done to these animals up close. One reported case was of a person placing cats in a plastic container and tossing them over the fence at the shelter.

The workers at 5A's volunteer their time to take care of the animals. Alice Muetz, one of the volunteers at 5A's, has been there for almost 30 years. She, along with Nancy Huit, Amy Crane and many others have been through a lot while serving their time at the shelter.

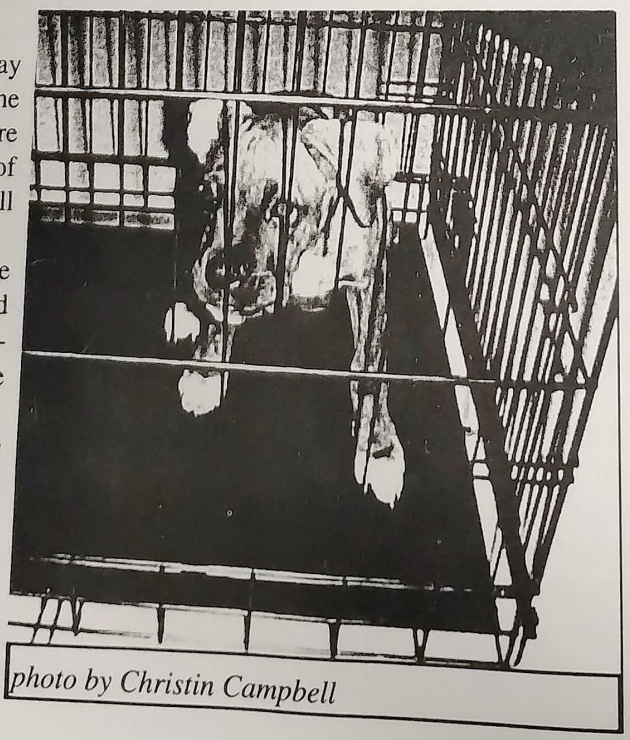


photo by Christin Campbell

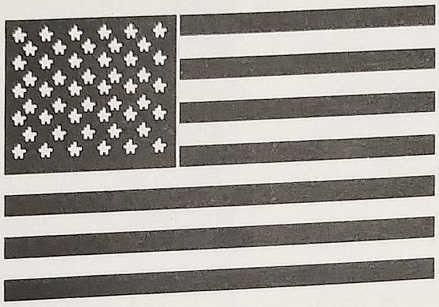
Even though the animals at the shelter are able to be adopted, many stay at the shelter for a long time or even their entire lives. Some animals have been through so much that they can never be placed in a home. No matter where they are they will always live a frightened life.

5A's has a "no kill" policy so that none of the animals have a time frame to be adopted. Even though the animals are treated very well at the shelter, it cannot compare to the treatment that they could receive in a nice home.

General "Starwars" Takes Reins of Chief's of Staff

by Daniel Lester
Copy Editor

President Bush has appointed a Joint Chief of Staff for the new administration and it comes as no surprise as to who it is. U.S. Air Force four star General Richard Myers accepted Bush's nomination with open arms and an optimistic outlook to the commander-in-chiefs missile defense system deemed "Starwars".



This system has been under the eye of scrutiny ever since its induction at the State of the Union address last January. Starwars would consist of an inter- ballistic missile defense system that would intercept foreign and domestic threats to the country.

General Myers, who was a Vietnam fighter pilot, was commander of the U.S. Air Force Japan Fleet for three years (1993-96) and the was moved into the field of satellite defense in 1998. The general was named commander of Air Force Space Command at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado, where he endorsed satellite defense calling it "essential to the modern warfare".

Opponents to the system, namely the NRDC, an environmental group, have filed lawsuits against the building of Starwars. They cite that the Bush Administration can not "revise the missile defense system without reassessing the potential environment damage and providing for public comment". A fair amount of special interest groups are also calling for an end to the program in North Dakota and Alaska.

The U.S. Government, however, has shot back with their own comments. "We spent the last three years doing an environmental impact statement for Alaska and North Dakota, and it's an extremely comprehensive document" said Lt. Col. Rick Lehner. According to Lehner "The EPA is also trying to shut down missile defense systems for political reasons, not environmental". Construction on the missile silos are slated to begin early next year.

Computers Crash at AHS

by Nik Kern
Managing Editor

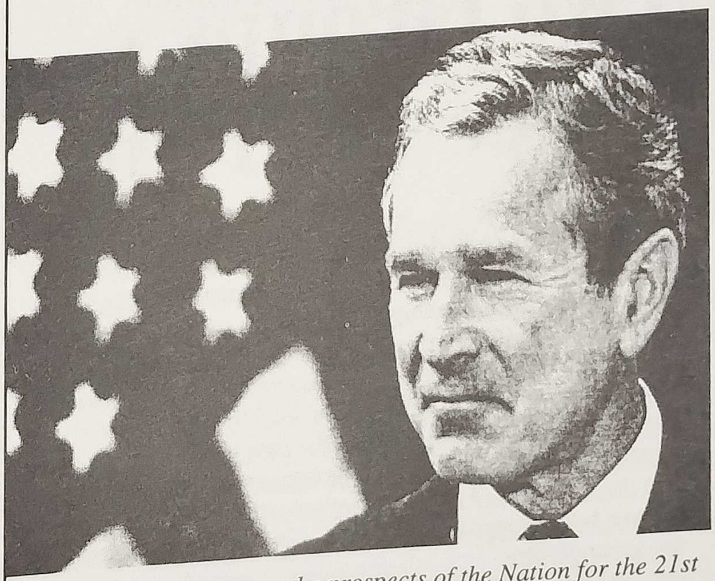
Computers at Alton High School have been angering students and staff since the beginning of the school year. Data and Technology Specialist Director of the Alton School District, Richard Durbin, had no comment about why the computers are constantly crashing, and not working.

"All I can tell you is that I am spending lots of time to get the problem resolved," said Durbin, "We are working with Apple on this."

Over the summer the school district had to switch from At Ease, to Mac Manager. This happened because At Ease will not work with new operating systems that are installed in the computers that the school has purchased. "It is an improvement even though it does not appear that way."

The Elementary schools have not been experiencing the computer problems that the High School, and the two middle schools have been experiencing. Students believe the problem is because the school only has one server. However, one is all that is necessary, but a second server has been ordered for the high school.

Also, Alton High Population believes that the heat may be playing a major factor in the computer problems. "Heat is not a problem, I am 100 percent sure," said Durbin.



Presidemt Bush smiling at the prospects of the Nation for the 21st century.

Photo courtesy www.excite.com/news

"God Bless America"

Bonjour III and IV

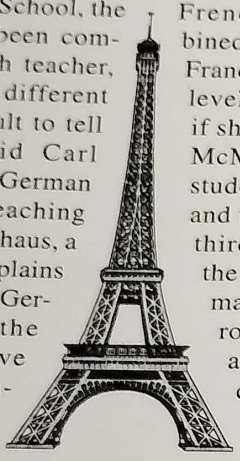
by Alex McMullen

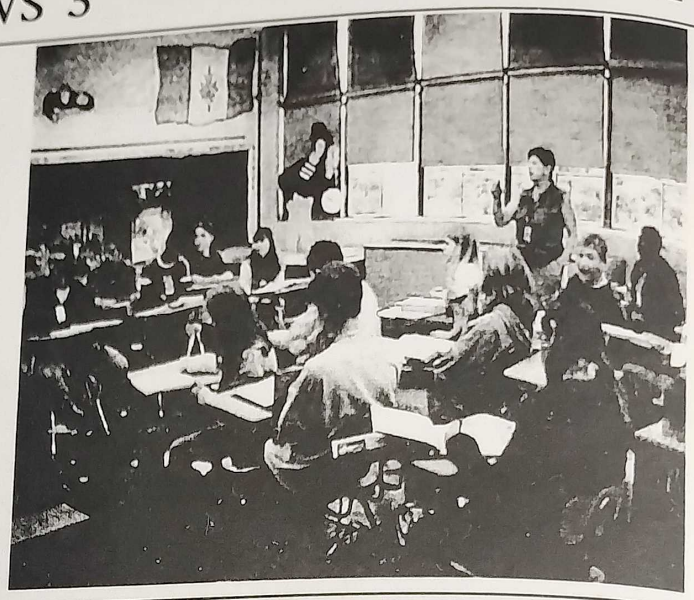
Due to an abundance of upper level French students at Alton High School, the French three and four classes have been combined into one hour. Everyday the French teacher, Francine Green attempts to teach on two different levels in one hour.

It's difficult to tell if she is talking to juniors like me," said Carl McMullen, junior. Several years ago, German students had to endure a year of over-teaching and under-teaching.

Chris Henkhaus, a third-year German student this year explains the problem this way. "I struggle to learn German even without older students in the room."

In a positive aspect, the shift to fourth-year students during class may allow the third-year students to reread their assignments. Even with this said, foreign languages may become an even tougher street now.





Mrs. Green instructs her French Class Photo by Julie Strassman

Two Groups - Twice the Fun

by Amanda Thomas

During the past few years, Alton High has not been a stranger to big changes. This year's change however, is not about ID tags, closed campus, or parking stickers. It is about two different groups uniting to work together.

This school year the student senate and student activities board will now be one student council. In the past there was competition and rivalry between the two groups. There were also problems that arose because neither group thought the other was doing its job. A once a month meeting that was supposed to have both groups in attendance, did not happen, because of the group rivalry.

However, this is a new year, and with a new year comes new ideas. Both the student senate and student activities board, who were once enemies will meet every day during the first half of fourth period.

" It will take hard work, but in the end the joining of the two groups will benefit the school," said Rachel Bryant, AHS junior and student senate member.

The new student council has already planned numerous events for the upcoming year. Such events include six dances, two blood drives, and a Mr. Irresistible Pageant in February. Also, a canned food drive will take place in March.

New Year Adds New Knowledge for FCA

by Carl McMullen

"One in Spirit and Purpose," reads the theme for the recent Fellowship of Christian Athletes' Huddle Leadership Conference. This conference was attended by three of Alton High Schools FCA co-presidents. Erin Hill, Michael Baxter, and Carl McMullen were each present at the three day camp from July 27-29 and August 3-5, in Cuba Missouri.

The emphasis of the camps were on improving leadership skills among the participants at their respective high schools. Athletic games were incorporated to instill teamwork during the daily activities, and prayer services brought the teenagers together in praise of Jesus Christ. Assemblies were held to bring ideas to the young leaders and explain the goal behind FCA. A Christian rock band "Blitz", which was led by the McKendree College quarterback Mark Sikma, provided the entertainment during the assemblies. "I enjoyed the band and the assemblies the most," said Michael Baxter.

Alton High's four leaders including Christina Sidwell, and the above mentioned, hope to use their new knowledge in the school's huddle to promote attendance. "Attendance is important for the growth of the huddle this year," said Dwight Turner, the huddle leader.

"Our numbers have tripled in the last year, and we hope to continue the success, he adds. With new ideas and better leadership, Alton High School's FCA should maintain a positive image in the school and community.

RBW

FEATURES

September 2001

Redbird Spirit Store Opens

by Andrea Zimmermann

Attention all RedBird fans! The Alton High Spirit Store is now open. The Spirit Store is the newest project of the Alton Athletic Association.

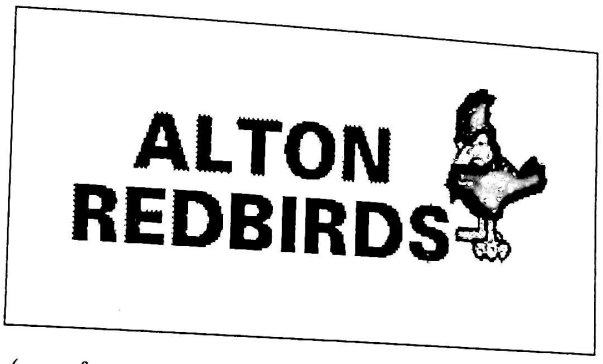
"The main goal of the Spirit Store is to offer RedBird fans, students and adults, with merchandise supporting AHS sports for a reasonable price," said Dave Zimmermann, president of the Athletic Association. "We hope to have a 'sea of red' in the stands at Alton High sporting events."

The Spirit Store offers t-shirts, hats, decals, umbrellas, stadium blankets and sweatshirts. Association Secretary Jeannie Hill explained that new merchandise will become available throughout the year. These items may include: pencils, pens, can coolers, and lanyards.

"One goal of the Spirit Store is to offer this service to the student, and hopefully let them feel more a part of the athletic program," stated Jeannie Hill. "The Spirit Store is a demonstration of the Athletic Association's on-going support of the students and staff here at Alton High School."

The Spirit Store will be open every Friday in the cafeteria during lunch. The merchandise will also be sold at football and basketball games and other school events upon request.

Custom embroidered apparel is available via the internet. Polos, denim shirts, shorts and more can be ordered at www.thepromofactory.com.



(one of many designs available on embroidered apparel)

AHS Dance Team Winners

by Kristin Hammond

The Alton High School Dance Team has been hard at work since tryouts in May for the 2001- 2002 squad. This year at camp, Alton's varsity team brought home three superior ribbons along with many other awards. Because of this, the squad was included in a group of elite squads at camp.

During the week, the whole camp learned one dance, called the "All-Star Dance." This was the dance the squad used to compete for purple ribbons, which qualified them to go to a Chicago Bears game and perform at halftime. Over half of Alton's varsity squad received a purple ribbon.

Many of the varsity girls also received the "all-star" medal, which qualified them to go to Florida and dance at Disney World. The "2001 All Stars" this year were: Andrea Zimmermann, Lori Perkins, Tayhlor Jenkins, Kristin Hammond, Ashley Cox, Sarah Joyce, and Kristin Melzer. The junior varsity squad did exceptionally well; with over half of the girls being new, they still won three excellent ribbons on their evaluations.

Tiny Tank Top Trauma

by Sandy Walter

Have tank tops been banned? No. Although it seems that the school has ruled out tank tops this year, they are still allowed, as long as they cover enough.

Mr. Robbins, the school principal, said that the decision on whether or not clothing is acceptable is at the discretion of those who see it, mainly teachers and other staff. If a piece of clothing is considered to be offensive or disrespectful to a staff member, they are to send the student wearing the clothing to their assistant principal, to let him or her decide.

"We are trying to enforce this paragraph (*Improper Dress*) of the student handbook," said Mr. Robbins. This paragraph states that, "Brief or sagging clothing with undue exposure of the body or undergarments.... will not be permitted."

Therefore, shirts that show bras are not permitted. The fact that many tank tops show the strap of the bra has been ignored in the past. However, some Alton High faculty and staff are attempting to put a stop to this now.

(headline: pictures of tiny tank tops courtesy of www.ae.com and www.jcrew.com)

Marching 100 Takes Stage on the Field

by Juan Black

BAND! YES SIR! TEN HUT! ONE! These are the words that fill the air as the one hundred twelve members of the Alton High School Marching 100 work at perfecting their 2001 show entitled Cathedrals.

While others continued to sleep in late during this summer's break, the 100 finished their vacation early and started off their two week long band camp with a bang this year.

This year's show, "Cathedrals", has been said to be one of the best shows that the 100 has ever put on the field. "There hasn't been a year in a while when I can remember the band doing so well, so early. The band is off to a really good start," said band director David Drillinger.

"Since this is my senior year, I really want for us to do really good this year, and we can. All we have to do is work hard," said senior trumpet player Clinton Followell.

The band will be participating in five different competitions this year. The first being at Murphysboro, IL, another at O'Fallon, IL, where the band will be defending the title of Grand Champion. They have won this the last two consecutive years. Other competitions will be at Carbondale, IL, Charleston, IL, and St. Louis, MO, where they will be finishing up the season.

AFJROTC Program is Steadily Growing

by Andy Clark

Have you seen people on our campus in blue Air Force uniforms yet? If not, you will soon. The JROTC program at Alton High has many members this year. In its beginning, the program had only 89 cadets. This year, its fourth year at Alton High, the program boasts 180 cadets, and over half of them are freshmen.

Colonel Baker, the senior corps instructor, is pleased with the expansion of the program. "On behalf of Sergeant Bedard and myself, I am proud of the growth of the corps," says Baker. " We believe we have a long way to go, and we are always looking for new cadets."

Since the program is so new at Alton High, the seniors in the fourth year classes will be the first to have completed all four years of the JROTC program.

"Hopefully," says Baker, "the program will continue to grow, and we will be able to make better citizens out of all our cadets."

AFJROTC seniors stand at attention.
photo by Alex Tanner

Students Teaching Students

by Sandy Walter

As the students sat in the fourth floor of the Main, they listened to Ms. Mossman answer questions of what becoming a teacher has been like for her. Ms. Mossman didn't always want to be a teacher. She majored in English at SIUE, and got her degree, but when she got out into the real world, she realized there weren't many jobs in the English field other than teaching or writing. She didn't care for either one, but she chose teaching. Ms. Mossman liked talking to people, especially about books. Teaching students about them would be a much better way to spend her day rathan than sitting behind a desk all day. So she decided to get her teaching certificate.

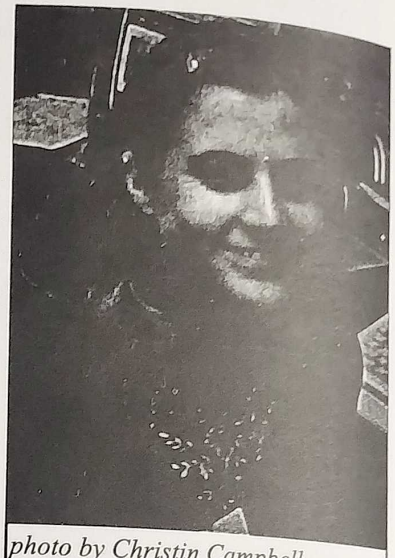


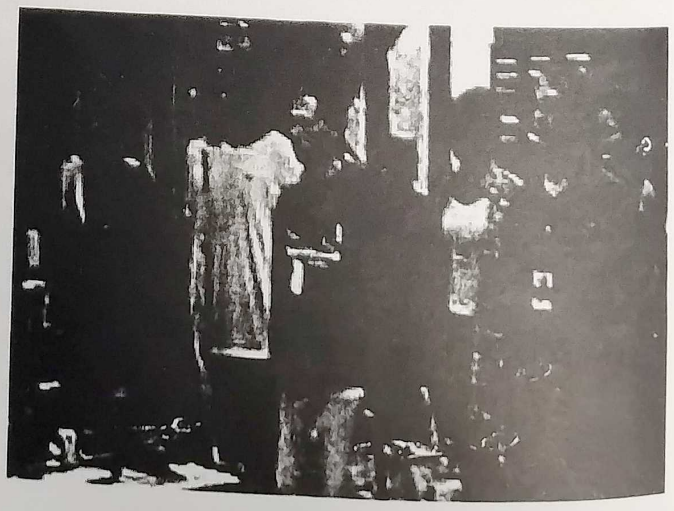
photo by Christin Campbell

After doing her Field One in Roxana, which consists of observing classes and teaching two of them, Ms. Mossman came to Alton High School to do her student teaching. She didn't choose AHS, her school chose it for her because it was close to her home.

Ms. Mossman is enjoying her time at AHS, while working with Mrs. Brave. "I like it and I get along well with the faculty," said Ms. Mossman.

Ms Mossman's student teaching ends December 6. She is hoping to get a job by August teaching older students in this area.

Ms. Mossman believes that a person can only plan his or her life five years ahead. This is the end of a five year plan, so it's time for a new one. Ms. Mossman's next five year plan will probably begin her life as a teacher. Her advice to those wanting to become teachers, "Get your certificate before you graduate."



Baskin Wins Presidential Service Scholarship

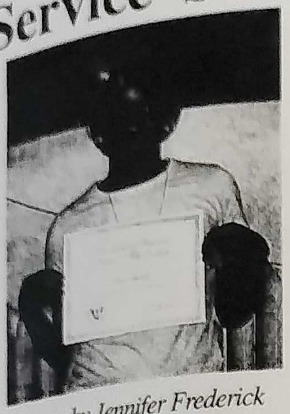


photo by Jennifer Frederick

by Julie Strassman
Senior Editor

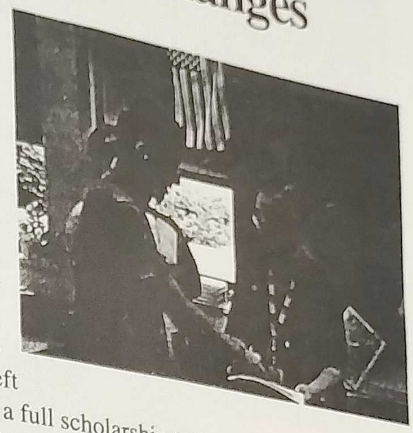
Toni Baskin, AHS senior, was recently awarded the President's Student Service Scholarship for her volunteer work at the Alton Boys and Girls Club. In addition to the one thousand dollar scholarship to the college of her choice, Baskin also received an official certificate from President George W. Bush and a gold award pin.

Baskin first joined the Alton Boys and Girls Club as a member when she was in seventh grade. She became a worker in 1999 and spent the next two years entertaining school children, helping with homework, serving lunch, and being a mentor and role model for dozens of area kids.

When asked about her service to the community, Baskin replied, "It was a good experience for me and the kids because we both learned each others likes and dislikes and they helped me to become more responsible."

New Tatler Adviser Hopes to Make Good Changes

by Jeremy Meyers



Should we be expecting a change in the Tatler? According to Kathy Sullivan, Alton High's new Tatler adviser, we can expect some changes for the better.

This year, Sullivan is taking the place of Mrs. Moore, AHS's previous yearbook adviser, who left to take advantage of a full scholarship to Washington University.

Sullivan, who is also the new photography and print teacher, transferred to AHS from the Riverview Gardens District where she taught art at Moline Elementary. On the side, she teaches at Laumeier Sculpture Park and the St. Louis Artist's Guild.

Sullivan hopes to eventually go into mixed media and do her own thing, but is concentrating on getting the Tatler ready for now.

She says that the changes we can expect to see are more and better advertisements, better pictures, and improved pages. Her biggest goal she says, though, is to just make it through the year.

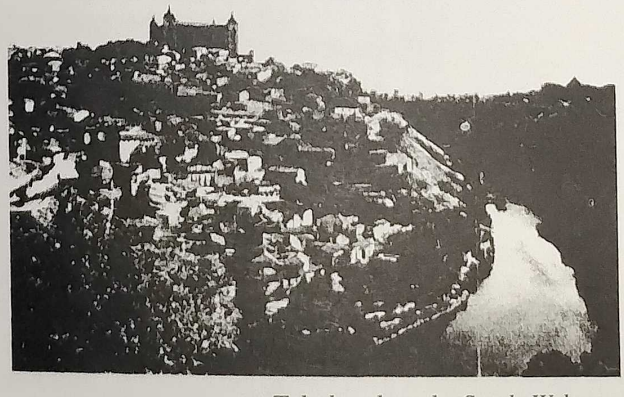
2001: A Spain Odyssey for 28 Students

by Andrew Bott

On June 19, twenty eight travelers from Alton High left Lambert Airport to begin what Mrs. Pierce cleverly entitled 2001: A Spain Odyssey. The purpose of the trip is for Spanish students to be able to see and live Spanish culture first-hand, and these students got to do just that when they landed in the Spanish capital, Madrid on day two of the trip.

The two days in Madrid offered the students their first taste of Spain. Eating Spanish cuisine and interacting with merchants and citizens were new experiences for most on the trip. Another highlight of Madrid was visiting the Prado Museum, home to such famous works as Picasso's Guernica.

From Madrid, the group traveled to Toledo, the former capital of Spain. Toledo boasted a historic look at Spanish culture, as the group visited the Cathedral of Toledo and other famous historic locations. Day five featured a visit to Granada and the Alhambra, followed by a bus ride to Seville.



Toledo photo by Sandy Walter

Despite it being 110 degrees, the rugged group hiked to their hotel and tried their hands at flamenco dancing. After touring the city the next day, the group watched a bullfight.

In an attempt to get close up pictures, the group was separated and then locked in the bullring. Eventually they found their way out, and everything was smoothed over.

After another morning of shopping on day seven, the group ventured to Cordoba to tour a famous Muslim religious site. The train from Cordoba to Barcelona was jam-packed with people and noise, but some managed to get a few hours of sleep.

Barcelona was full of culture and history, but the majority of the group was looking forward to the hotel for showers and rest. The last leg of the trip involved a stop at the Dali Museum in Figueres, and then packing for the return home the next day.

While everyone was glad to be home, they also felt that they would miss Spain and all that it had taught them.

We Are the

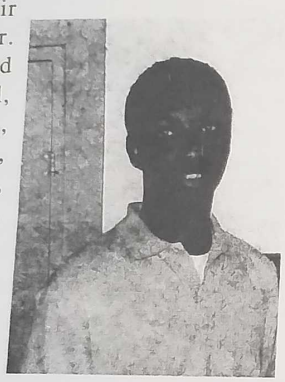
Cover Story
by Andy Duggan

"What do you want to be when you grow up?" You've heard it all your life but now it's finally time to answer the question. So what are you going to do? Go to college? Go take a year off and tour the world?

The RedBird Word tried to find the most outgoing and ambitious students on campus. What we found were those all out do-gooders, those students who get angry when they get an A-.

We wondered if the top students had any clue what they wanted to do in their lives after high school. We wanted to know everything they do around campus and around the community. What makes these students soar above the rest? Though please don't get discouraged as these students aren't the only leaders on and off campus. We just don't have enough pages and time to list all of the wonderful leaders and students at Alton High.

Alec Lacy is one of Alton High's most musically accelerated students. Alec is involved with Gospel Choir and Concert Choir. He is also involved with Student Council, Minority Excellence, Talent Search, Voices of Deliverance, and Bible Busters. Alec plans to become a Nurse Anesthetist.

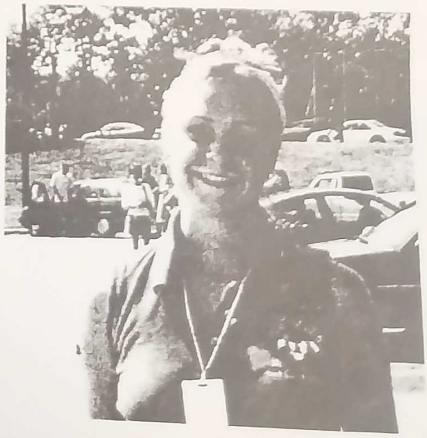


Alison Hanold, editor in chief of the Red Bird Word, is quite an accomplished student. Alison is also president of the Thespian Society and Vice-President of Concert Choir. She was with Celebrations for her last three years of high school. Alison has played the lead in every play since her freshman year and she was the lead in two of Alton high's musicals. She is corresponding secretary of National Honor Society. She is also in Quill & Scroll, international honorary society for high school journalists. Some may wonder where Alison gets the time to breathe. After high school Alison hopes to go to DePaul University.

Kayla Garrott is another musically talented student at Alton High. Kayla has played piano for eight years and provides piano accompaniments for people. She has been a member of Celebrations for two years. Kayla is also soprano section leader in Concert Choir.

Kayla is also in a number of clubs. She is in French club, of which she is the secretary, and she is in National Honor Society, where she is the recording secretary. Kayla has been a member of the math team Alton High for math competitions and in her spare me she is very active in her church youth group at pper Alton Baptist. After high school Kayla is planng to go to college at SIUE.

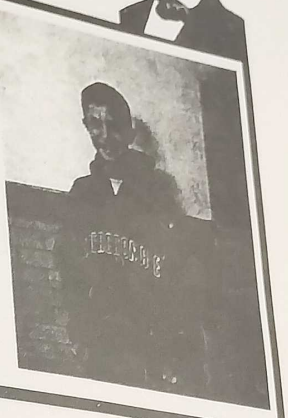
Megan Moyer is our Senior Class President Megan is also the president of the Student Council. She is in The Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and is a varsity cheerleader. Megan is in the National Honor Society too. Well we can see that the President is busy to say the least! After high school Megan wants to go to college and major in civil engineering.



he Future

Another high achiever is Jenny Moats. Jenny is Varsity Cheerleading Captain. She is in Concert Choir and in National honor Society. Jenny is the treasurer of both French Club and of the engineering club, WYSE. Jenny enjoys dancing. She is into tap, pointe, jazz, lyrical, and gymnastics. She was a dancer in last year's musical, Carnival. Jenny is also involved in the Tatler. She works with the activity edition. Jenny is also a part of the Leadership Development Institute.

Brett Hartig is a scholar who is involved in everything that he can get into. Brett is in French Club. He is in WYSE. Brett is also on the tennis team. Brett is in National Honor Society. After high school he plans to go to UCLA in California or perhaps a college in Arizona.

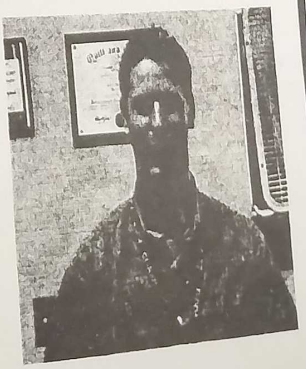


Brian Bish is another Alton High scholar. Brian is involved in many after-school activities like Scholar Bowl and Chess Club. Brian is also in National Honor Society. Brian likes to hang out with friends in his spare time. After High School he hopes to major in medicine when he goes to college.

Matt O'Dell is another one of those all out musical students. Matt is in Pep band, which plays at the basketball games. He is also in Alton High's famed Marching 100 that plays at the football games, and stands to cheer on the football team. He is also in the Pit orchestra for the yearly musical, symphonic orchestra, and in jazz band. In his spare time he likes to watch Nascar racing. Matt hopes to someday be either a civil or chemical engineer and hopes to have a summer home in Switzerland.

Brad Zakrzewski is one of the top students at Alton High. Brad is President of National Honor Society and has been in Social Studies Club and in German Club. He is in the engineering club, WYSE. He is also in Scholar Bowl. After high school. Brad wants to major in business at the University of Michigan or at Northwestern.

Danny Lester is the captain of the Boys Golf Team. He has been captain for the past 2 years. He has gotten an offer from the University of Colorado to possibly receive a scholarship to play on their golf team at the University of Colorado. He has been recruited by the United States Air Force but is going to go with the University of Colorado. On campus Danny maintains a 3.92 cumulative GPA. In his past academic career he won the Presidential Academic Excellence Award. He also participates in WYSE.



photos by Alison Hanold, Christin Campbell, Jennifer Frederick, and Andy Duggan.

Do not take this seriously folks!!!

NO HAIR, NO FREEDOM, NO PROBLEM

by Nancy McDonald
Humor Editor

Don't let the top of this page fool you. This is not a humor page, this is actually a news article that Adam Betz, the news editor, asked me to write. Already Betz has tainted my humor page with his filthy hands. Anyway, the following is completely true and will probably happen next year.

The Board of Education has decided that next year everyone will be wearing uniforms. Correction, everyone will be wearing jumpsuits, prison style. The color of the jumpsuit will depend on the grade the student is in. Seniors will wear hot pink, juniors will get a very becoming shade of beige, sophomores will wear baby blue, and freshman will wear bright orange. Isn't that just great?

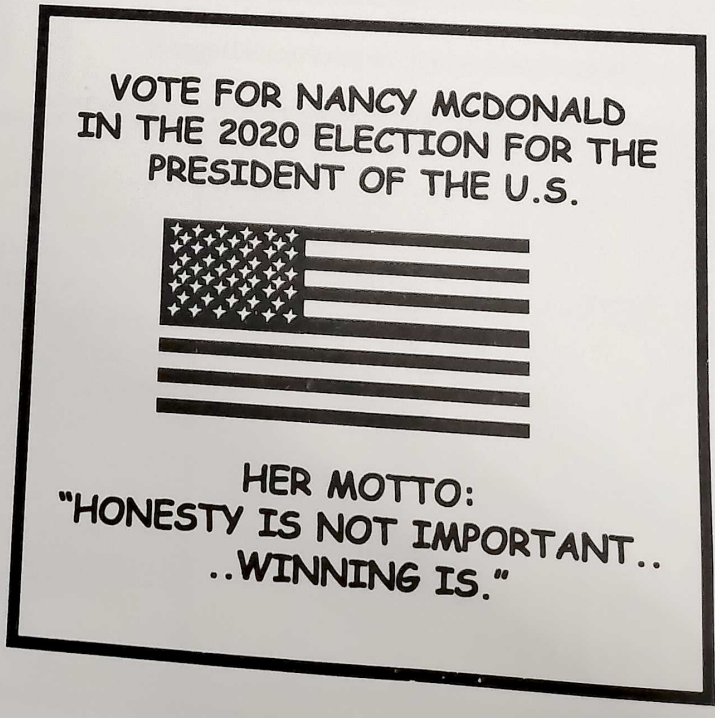
However, the jumpsuits will be sleeveless to accommodate for the new I.D.s. The words "Property of Alton High School" will be tattooed on the student's right arm. Of course, if a student is constantly getting into trouble or is frequently tardy to class, the words "Damaged Goods" or "Return to Sender" will be burned into the left arm. AHS plans on hiring Blind Joe Brown with the shaky hands to do the tattooing.

I know what all of you are thinking to yourselves, Nancy my friend, how can they give us tattoos on our arms when the school makes tons of money off of lost I.D.s? Well, that is a very good question boys and girls and AHS has a solution: rabid dogs. There will be rabid, starving dogs trained to take your arm off in one bite and the school guarantees that there will be minimal blood loss only. Once you are armless, you simply go to the Main Office and buy a replacement arm for $3.55. And if you buy your replacement arm before noon, you'll also receive your tattoo for one low price of $103.55!!!

Another new rule is that all heads will be shaved. It seems at we have some balding teachers that are jealous and want to ke out their frustrations out on their students. It's odd, but the eady bald teachers , who waved bye-bye to Rogaine years ago, nothing to do with this no rule, just the balding ones. I just want ay to the balding teachers that they don't have to be ashamed. A of cool people are bald. Look at Ron Howard. Cool dude Good Ronnie. Little Opie. Ritchie Cunningham. Ritchie hung out with Fonz. Very cool. Okay, I can't think of any other cool, bald le. Who knows, maybe the Fonz will go bald... probably not because he's the Fonz and the Fonz would never let his hair slowly slip down the drain, so to speak. I mean, the Fonz took care of his hair everyday, but what did Ronnie do? He stuck a baseball cap on his head and thirty years later he took it off and noticed he had gone bald! Anyway, just remember balding teachers, Ron Howard has faith in you to do the right thing.

There will be a new, exciting event that will happen next year during the wintertime. It's called "Bring Your Grandma to School Day." Imagine, if you will, having only six minutes to get to the fourth floor of the Main while dragging your grandma by her cane through seven feet of snow! What fun! Oh, this is a fair warning that your grandma's medicine will not be allowed on school campus without a note from your grandma's mother, which I think is the way to go.

So, these are the changes for next year... or maybe these changes will happen in two years. Oh wait a doggone minute... I remember now. It was this really weird dream I had. Yeah, because in the end everyone around me turned into delicious french fries and it started to rain ketchup. Oh how I love my dreams.



HUMOR 2

Making you forget about your abusive parents for a few minutes

If you actually take this seriously, GET A LIFE!

The *Real* Story Behind P.B.I.S.

by **Andrew Bott**

Since the introduction of Positive Behavior Intervention Support in the 2000-2001 school year, it has come to my attention that the most "supportive" quotes posted around school aren't supportive at all. They are usually frightfully obvious, frightening, or both.

To support my theory, I left my study hall to go on a fact finding mission. The study hall monitor was yelling down the hall at me to come back, saying something about skipping, but I really couldn't understand her. I then turned down the stairway, and was nearly blinded by a bright yellow P.B.I.S. sign, reading "**TO GET WHERE YOU ARE GOING, START RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE.**" I had found my first piece of evidence. Not only does this saying make any normal person say, "Duh," but it was typed in all caps and bold, in a font which I think is called Machine.

Now, I don't know about everyone else, but I find it hard to get anything positive out of a sign that is yelling at me. Granted, it probably has some deep and philosophical meaning passed down from the age of Confucius. I, however, am a teenager, and cannot relate to the ramblings of ancient bald geezers with long beards and too much time on their hands.

By the time all these thoughts had passed through my mind, I had been standing in the stairwell for quite some time, and drool was starting to come from my gaping mouth. I wiped my chin, and yoinked the sign.

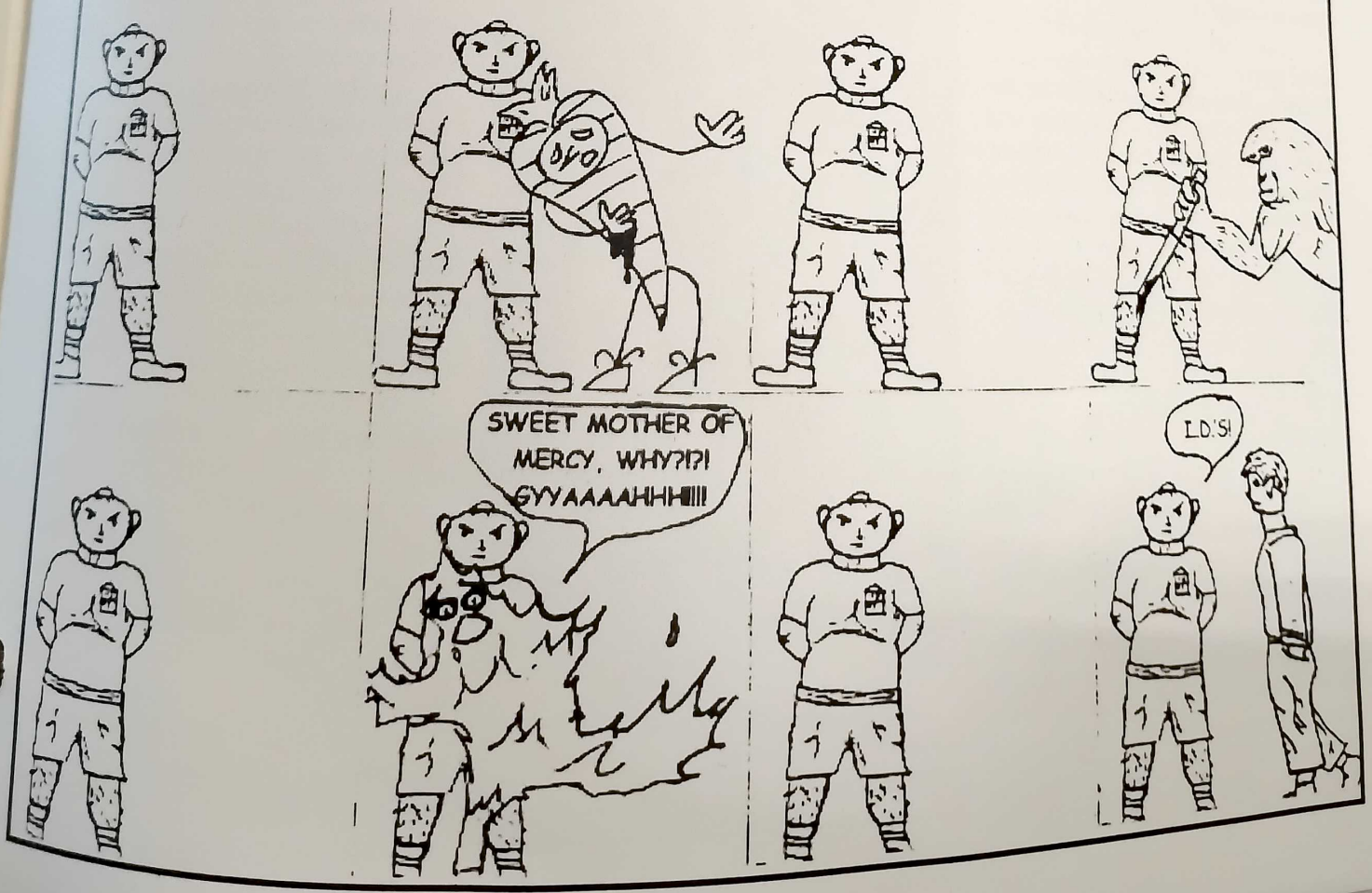
Turning right to continue my journey, I found yet another sign. This one, far more terrifying last, said; than the last read, "**DON'T DO ENOUGH TO GET BY, DO ENOUGH TO GET AHEAD!!!!**" Yes, "get ahead" was very bold, and yes, there were four exclamation points.

Too afraid to touch this one, I ran screaming down the stairs in a vain attempt to escape the P.B.I.S. horror. They were everywhere! Left and right, all I could see was, "MAKE AN EFFORT, NOT AN EXCUSE," and "YOU ARE WHO YOU CHOOSE TO BE." I stationed myself in the boys' bathroom and cowered until the bell rang.

Now, I figured I needed a quote, so I grabbed some kids in the hallway. I asked them what they thought of P.B.I.S. One of them said, "I think P.B.I.S. is uplifting and positive for people of all ages, tongues and races." All the others seemed to agree. I stared at him blankly, knocked his books out of his hands and ran for my life.

To sum up, P.B.I.S. may be dangerous and mind-warping. It may be trying to smuggle more inspirational posters through Alton High's underground tunnel. If anyone would like to see this tunnel, passes are available for the one time price of five dollars. See Andrew Bott for information.

Hall Monitor Adventures by Jay Theobald



RBW

ENTERTAINMENT

September 2001

Jimmy Eat World Rocks Mississippi Nights

by Scott Schwartz
Entertainment Editor

Rock band Jimmy Eat World (J.E.W.) came to St. Louis September 16th for a one and half hour display of high-speed power-pop. The sold out show at Mississippi Nights was in promotion of their new album *Bleed American*.

J.E.W. opened up their set with the radio friendly title track from *Bleed American*, immediately working the crowd into a frenzy. They didn't shy away from their formative work either, playing more than a few songs off of *Clarity* and *Static Prevails*.

Senior Karl Fiedler, said, "These guys surprised me. They really had a lot of energy out there and they didn't hold anything back." After the show, when asked about the new album, J.E.W. lead singer Jim Adkins said, "We try to do something different with every album. With each album we try to create a different sound."

Joining Jimmy Eat World for the three hour plus show were Hey Mercedes from Wisconsin and EMO rockers Reubens' Accomplice from Arizona. Hey Mercedes put on an explosive 50 minute show featuring songs from their upcoming LP *Everynight Fireworks*, their first full length album.

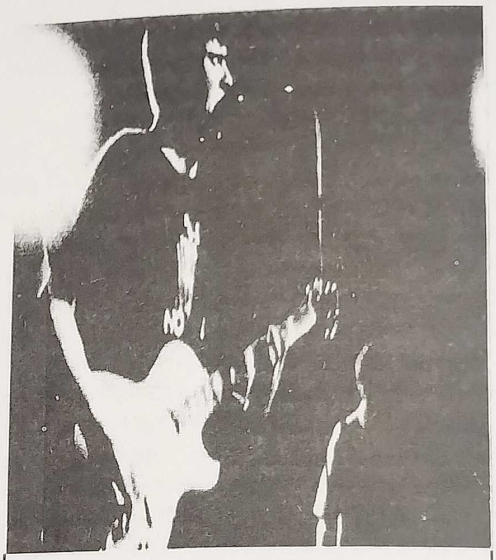


Photo Courtesy of BuddyHead.com

Oakbrook Pictures Scares up Cinematic Success

by Scott Schwartz
Entertainment Editor

Two years ago, a handful of friends came together in Oakbrook Subdivision in Godfrey. Using a handheld camcorder, the group began making short films and Oakbrook Pictures was born. The company was founded by seniors Scott Helfrich and Nick Hausman, both life-long movie enthusiasts, who decided after years of watching movies it was time to take on Hollywood themselves. Helfrich is leading the team of amateur cinematographers, directing, writing scripts, and financing the upgrade to a state of the art digital camera.

After two years of production, Oakbrook Pictures has finished three films and three more are in production. Their first film was a pre-Scary Movie spoof of *Scream* and *The Blair Witch Project*, entitled *The Curse of Oakbrook*.

Their most ambitious work, though has been *Jimmy Bundo: Espionage*, an action adventure movie starring Hausman as a debonair international spy. Their latest film, *Trapped*, a terrifying tale with a twisted end- reminiscent of early episodes of *The Twilight Zone*, is about a white-collar tycoon that is "trapped" outside of his house by incompetent crooks, and his ensuing desire for vengeance.

Scott Helfrich directs Josh Terpening in Bundo. Photo by Scott Schwartz.

Oakbrook Pictures is currently working on *Square Dead*, a zombie horror movie that echoes the terror created by *The Evil Dead* director Sam Raimi.

"There are tons of films that we all like," says Helfrich, "but *The Evil Dead* series from Sam Raimi is probably the source of most of our inspiration. It has everything: terror, humor, and romance."

Helfrich, a member of the Alton High Swimming team, also designed and maintains the Oakbrook Pictures website, www.welcome.to/oakbrook, where visitors can listen to sound files taken from the films, as well as buy all of the productions to date.

"Oakbrook isn't just a subdivision," says collaborator Chad Stutz, "it's a lifestyle."

"We may not know how to spell Scorsese," says Hausman, "but we do know how to spell success, and at the end of the day, that's what counts."

RBW Upcoming Concerts

Alice Cooper
The Pagent
October 4

Lifehouse
Mississippi Nights
October 12

Incubus
The Pagent
October 13

Alien Ant Farm
Mississippi Nights
October 16

Dropkick Murphy's
Mississippi Nights
October 18

Tool
The Saavis Center
October 19

Iggy Pop
The Pagent
October 24

Sum 41
Mississippi Nights
October 31

Concerts are subject to change.

Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back

by John Mook

Jay and Silent Bob struck back hard in the-atres this summer. *Jay And Silent Bob Strike Back* is the fifth film from Kevin Smith that features the characters, Jay and Silent Bob. This is the first fea-ture that these two have the starring roles in.

Jay And Silent Bob Strike Back is a fast paced road film; meaning most of the movie is on the road. This film is about two out of the ordinary slackers that are about to get a movie made about them without their knowledge. Yes, it surprises them too, and they set out across country to get paid or to at least wreck the whole thing, which ever comes first. But on their way they get framed as jewel thieves and are being followed by the F.B.I. After that, it is no holds barred, and Jay and Silent Bob will stop at nothing to get this film from not being made. This film is full of parodies, slapstick com-edy and tons of familiar faces.

This film was a big change for Smith. He used slapstick comedy. Most of his movies have a unique humor, all their own. This one seems to be set up to please more of a mainstream audience. Nevertheless, Smith comes through with another great movie that is full of comedy. It is a must see for any fan of this genre.

Jay And Silent Bob Strike Back stars Ja-son Mewes, Kevin Smith, Ben Affleck, Matt Damon, Chris Rock, Mark Hammel, Jeff Anderson, and Brian O'Halleron and is full of cameos from characters from his past movies. It is from the View-Askew Universe and opened this summer.

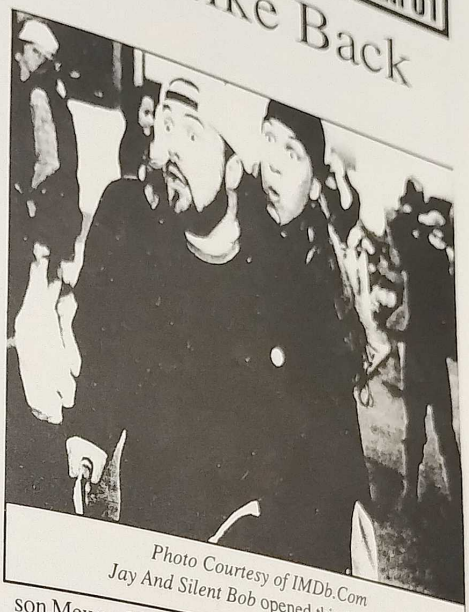


Photo Courtesy of IMDb.Com
Jay And Silent Bob opened this Summer.

Greenwheel Keeps Rolling

by Scott Schwartz

Labor Day weekend, while most of the music fans on hand at the Point Fish Fry were watching Slipknot spin-offs, Mudvayne, pound the main stage at the Riverport Amphitheater, a lucky few got to catch St. Charles band Greenwheel put on an amazing show for the front stage audience. Though the set was cut short by technical difficul-ties, Greenwheel electrified most of the sparse crowd with their own brand of Post-Grunge alt-rock.

The band roared through over half a dozen songs, and apologized for having to stop early. Lead singer, Ryan Jordan, a throwback to Mick Jagger with his spastic movements and passionate vocals, excited the crowd further by tossing out free T-Shirts between songs.

The band, together for three years, has signed an extensive deal with Island Records, and recently put out a three song E.P. entitled *Hello*. Their E.P. is less than spectacular and doesn't do their live show much justice. On stage they explode with powerful riffs sewn together by dynamic leads from guitarist, Marc Wanniger. The rest of the outfit con-sists of Brandon Armstrong on Bass, Andrew Dwiggins on guitar and Douglas Randall on drums.

Jordan said that their debut album is completed and should be out early next year.

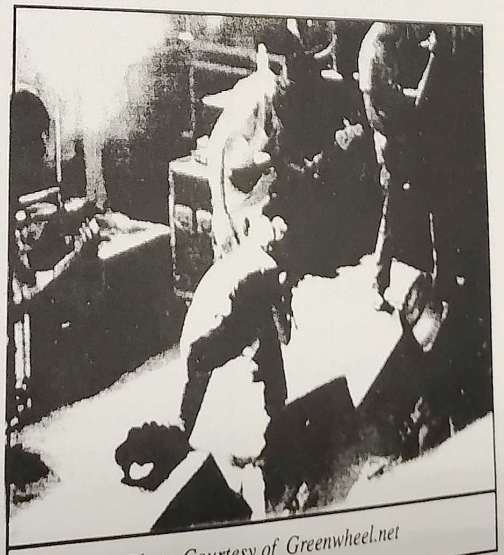


Photo Courtesy of Greenwheel.net

Upcoming Movies

Zoolander
Ben Stiller
September 28

The Wash
Snoop Dogg
October 3

Cory Romano
Chris Katten
October 12

Riding In Cars With Boys
Drew Barrymore
October 19

New Video Releases

A Knights Tale
Heath Leager
September 25

The Mummy Returns
Brendan Fraser
October 2

Briget Jones Diary
Renee Zellweger
October 9

Dr. Dolittle
Eddie Murphy
October 23

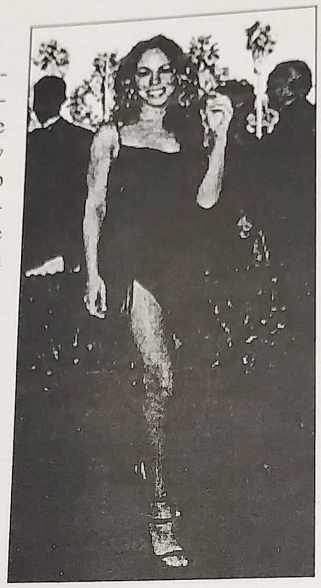
The Animal
Rob Sneider
October 30

Swordfish
John Travolta
October 30

Glitter Showers Hollywood

by Stefanie Walker
Senior Editor

Mariah Carey can add actress to her list of accomplishments, due to her starring role in *Glitter*. Not only is Carey starring in the movie the pop princess also has her latest album *Glitter* serve as the soundtrack from her first record in Virgin Records. Carey's movie *Glitter* is not based on her life. *Glitter* takes place in the early '80's at the New York nightclubs. Carey's character Bellie was taken away from her mother at a young age. Bellie wants to know why her mother gave her up and if she really cared about her at all.



www.mariahcarey.com

Rapper Da Brat and actress Tia Texada plays Bellie's best friends Louise and Roxy. One night when Bellie and her friends go to a nightclub, D. J. Dice hears Bellie sing in the hallway and asks her to sing in the nightclub. D.J. Dice helps Bellie get an album contract. Then they fall into a love affair and it interferes with Bellie's singing career. Carey wrote most of the songs from her character's perspective. The song "Lead the Way" tells a lot of Dice and Bellie's reltaionship. Then the song "Reflection" tells about her mother abandoing her.

On the album Carey does a cover of Cherrelle's 1984 dance hit "Didn't Mean to Turn You on" and "Loverboy." Mariah's album features such artists as Busta Rhymes, Nate Dogg, Ja Rule and much more. To find out more about the movie and Mariah go visit www.mariahcarey.com or www.Glittermovie.com

WHO IS DARK LOTUS?

by Doug Beiser

Many people were interviewed and asked what they thought of the Dark Lotus album entitled "Tales from the Lotus Pod." However, not many people knew who they were. In fact, only three people knew who they were. All of the others could be summed up by Crystal Rhoades, freshman, when she said "Dark Lotus? Who is that?"

So for those who do not know who they are, Dark Lotus is an underground rap group that is composed of Insane Clown Posse (Violent J and Shaggy), Twiztid (Jamie Madrox and Monoxide Child), Blaze Ya Dead Homie and Marz (who was later kicked out of the group). Insane Clown Posse has their own record company, Psychopathic Records. Psychopathic Records signed Twiztid and when their album was released nationwide it went gold, not bad for an album that received little or no advertising or radio play. Blaze was later signed and he has an EP in stores now. Marz on the other hand was never signed to Psychopathic. That is probably why he got kicked out because he had already signed to another label.

This album has not received any radio play or major label support. It has not had any advertising and it has never appeared in music videos or been in mainstream promotions. The album itself contains no liner notes, no song titles, or copyright information. In fact, unless you personally know who the artists are, you would not be able to find their names unless you did thorough research to find them.

Their album quickly became number one on the Billboard's Heatseeker and Top Two Hundred charts. The Heatseekers chart is for underground, independent, or outside the mainstream releases.

Jeff Flye, junior, probably had the best things to say about the album when he said " 'Tales from the Lotus Pod' is the best underground album ever. So if you do not know who Dark Lotus is or have never heard a song by them, just listen to one song. Please keep an open mind. It isn't like anything that you have ever heard before."

SPORTS

RBW

September 2001

Alton High's Break Through Year Begins

by Anthony Gator and John Vetter

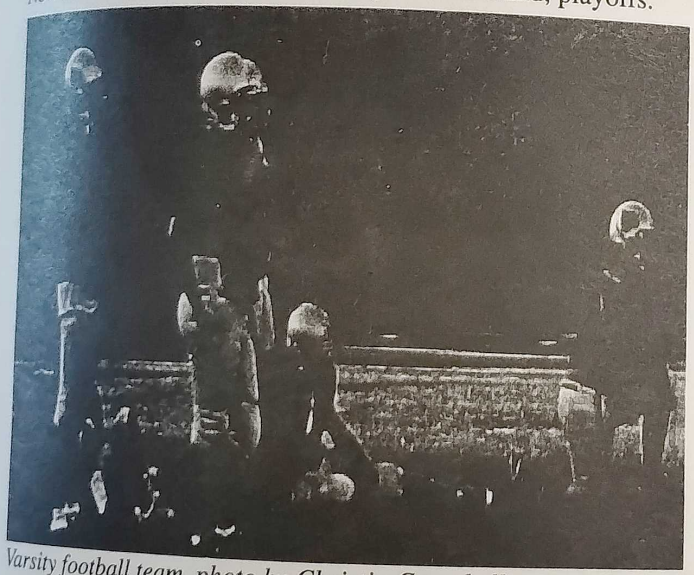
"GO! FIGHT! WIN!" Shouted the cheerleaders as they cheered the Redbirds to victory. The Redbirds played their home opener against Champaign Central in a close 21-19 win.

The first trip for the Redbirds was to Quincy. In Quincy the Redbirds won in a nail biting 7-6 finish. The Redbirds are currently tied for first place with the Belleville West Maroons.

The Redbirds have eight seniors including John Vetter, Wade Dobson, Luke Warner, Benny Williams, Sam Plunkett, Mike Johnson, Delancy Smith, and Alex Tanner.

Many of these players have been playing since their freshman year. " We've worked very hard during the off season," said Benny Williams. Throughout the summer the Redbirds participated in football camps at McKendree College, Civic Memorial High School, and the East Alton Wood River passing league.

The team now knows they can compete with anyone. They already have a great jump and are excited about the games to come. Now the Redbirds only have one thing on their mind, playoffs.



Varsity football team photo by Christin Campbell

Cross-Country Needs New Team Uniforms

by Kenny Ross and Sarah Whitney

Despite the sunny days and hot weather, new cross-country Coach Vernon Curvey needs uniforms for his team. Coach Curvey has a complete team of former runners and new comers.

Fourteen people may not seem like a lot, but to them it is. The team is short two uniforms and all the sweats have disappeared. They may not need them now, but their season lasts until the end of October.

The runners have a budget of $700 and a pair of sweats costs around $100. So having to buy 14 pairs of sweats would exceed their limit by a little.

Jake Sweetman Photo by Jennifer Frederick

Although on the bright side the girls team is excited to have a full team this year. With people like Amy Stabell ,Andrea Zimmerman, Sarah Whitney, Victoria Ruppert, Shereece Wallace, Elsia Wallace, Jana Joehl, and Shyday Weeden we are sure to have some good runners. Now thebo ys team has only six runners. Seniors Ed McPike and Rob Simpson, juniors Jake Sweetman, Kenny Ross and Jeff McDonald, and the only freshman Tony Stone. September first was one of the major meets. Out of 23 girls and 19 boys teams each team placed second to last. Stabell and Ruppert were the lead runners for the girls. While McPike and Sweetman were the lead runners for the boys. "We think the boys team works harder. Oh, and I like wearing the short shorts," said senior Ed McPike. Though it doesn't seem like they are off to a good start, Coach Curvey is looking forward to a victorious season.

No Seniors Needed Here!

by Karla Killam

Who says you need a senior to win a soccer game? The boys soccer team that consists of only juniors, sophomores, and freshmen is working its way through the season.

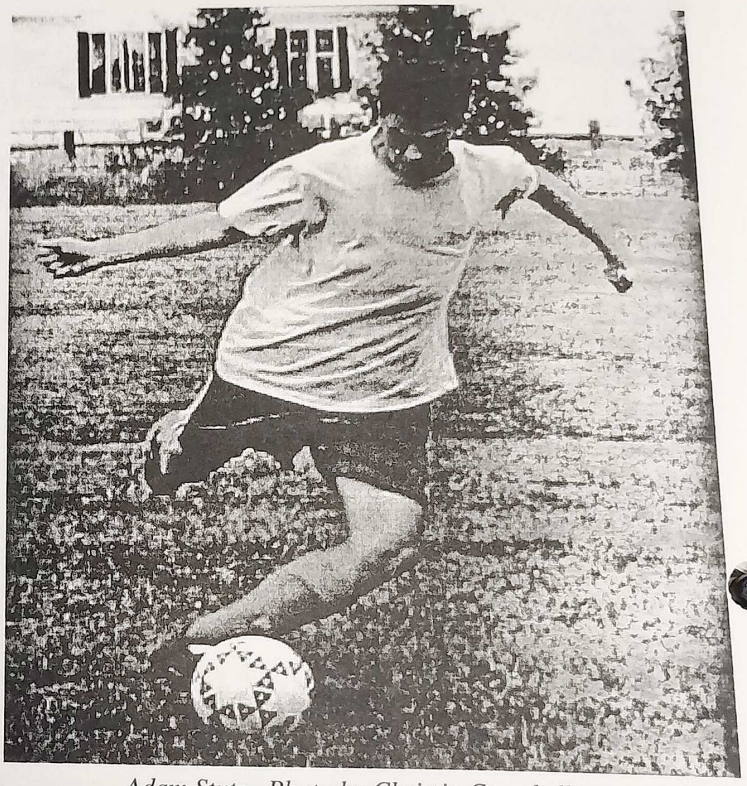
The Varsity soccer team has a record of 1-2, and the Junior Varsity team has a record of 2-1. The two teams consist of 15 juniors, 10 sophomores, and 15 freshmen.

The Alton boys head coach, Greg Nasello, and assistant coaches, Kurt Atkinson and Derek Beck, have been working hard with the boys.

Coach Nasello said, "I've got a group of hard working young men, who are making progress every practice and game." The boys practice daily in all kinds of weather to sharpen their skills.

The Redbirds first victory this season was against Wesclin with a whopping score of 5-1. Unfortunately, Alton has not won every game, but they are working hard to have a victorious season.

Go Redbirds!



Adam Stutz Photo by Christin Campbell

Girls Volleyball Starts Out With A Bang!

by Jessica Fabri

The girls' volleyball started out this year's season on August 28 with a win. They haven't been stopped yet.

The team began to officially practice together on August 13. With varsity coach Dan Carter, the girls worked hard from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. six days a week on new drills and set ups.

Teamwork was the main focus of practice. They participated in three summer tournaments in which they placed third and two vigorous summer camps.

Jody Cox, a junior on the varsity squad, said, "I feel this year's team will be more successful than last years', because this year we are more determined and focused than the years' before."

At an annual Redbirds volleyball tournament, the girls placed first being undefeated. This makes their record 9 wins and 0 losses.

"We all really came together as a team," said junior Corliss James.

Kelly Brooks, also a junior, said, "Granite City and Roxana were the challenge of the tournament, but we pulled through and beat them."

The varsity squad consists of eight girls, three who are seniors and five who are juniors. This leaves the Lady Redbirds more room for improvement in the years to come.

October Games

Oct. 2	Granite City	A	6:00
Oct. 4	Collinsville	H	6:00
Oct. 8	Belleville East	H	6:00
Oct. 9	O'Fallon	A	6:00
Oct. 11	Edwasdsville	H	6:00
Oct. 15	Marquette	H	6:00
Oct. 16	Granite City	H	6:00
Oct. 17	East St. Louis	A	6:00
Oct. 22-27	IHSA Regional Tourn.		TBA

Girls' Tennis Team Shows Improvement

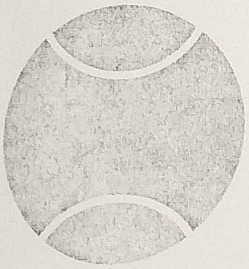
by Courtney Schien

To some students, the start of the school year means only one thing, the tennis season. Not this year though. Since Leon Wright took the brave position as Tennis Coach last year, a large part of the team has been playing close to a year round.

Coach Wright encourages the team to join camps as well as tournaments to build up their intensity. Wright taught a tennis class during the summer and he recruited his class as his team. When asked if being on the tennis team was what she expected it to be like, sophomore Sarah McAfoos responded, "No , I didn't think we'd have to run so much, but it is still fun." Practices for the girls includes 100% dedication, lots of running, and encouragement to all.

Freshman Sarah Bish said, " I didn't know what to expect. I'm not very good but I love to play. I think I've improved a lot since summer school but I'm still looking for more improvement in the near future. Playing in the off-season has opened a whole new world of opportunities. The girls are improving and it shows."

In their first match they lost to O'Fallon with the score of 0-7. In the second match, by a little glory left inside, they defeated Waterloo with the score of 4-3. This was a win they have not achieved for the previous two years. With upcoming matches against Edwardsville, Roxana, Marquette, and East St. Louis, the girls are practicing hard to gain more victories. Their goal is to win at least ten of their matches this season.



"My goal is to improve and get better," said Coach Wright on August 31st, "We're taking one step at a time and so far the ladies are making 100 percent progress. Last year we had nine girls on the team, this year we have seventeen."

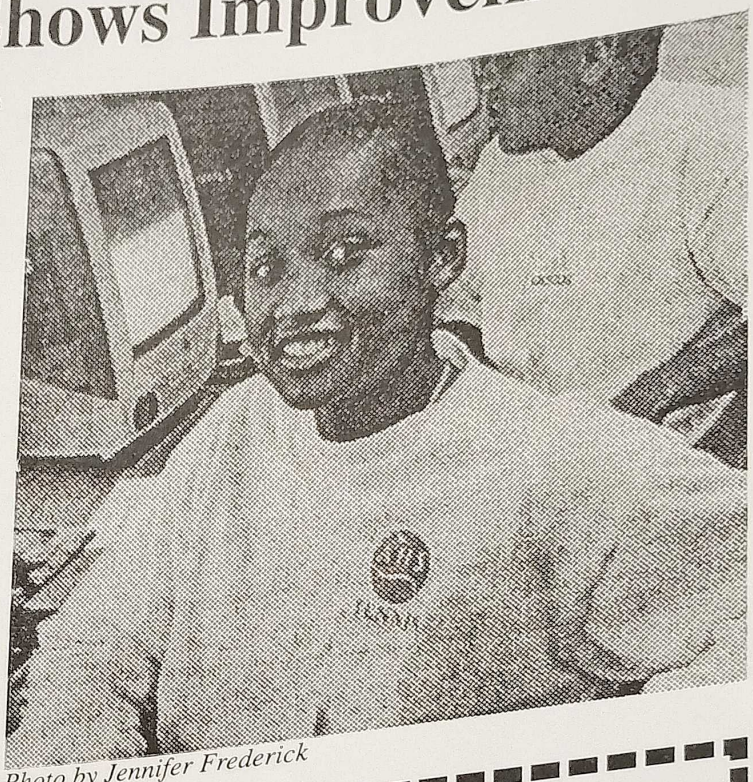


Photo by Jennifer Frederick

October Events Tennis 2001

Alton vs. Civic Mem. 10/01/01 G.M.P.

Alton vs. Belle. West 10/03/01 A

SWCTournament 10/05/01 A

SWC Tournament 10/06/01 A

Alton vs. Roxana 10/10/01 A

IHSA Sectional Tourn. Oct. 12-13/01 TBA

IHSA Sectional Tourn. Oct. 18-20/01 A

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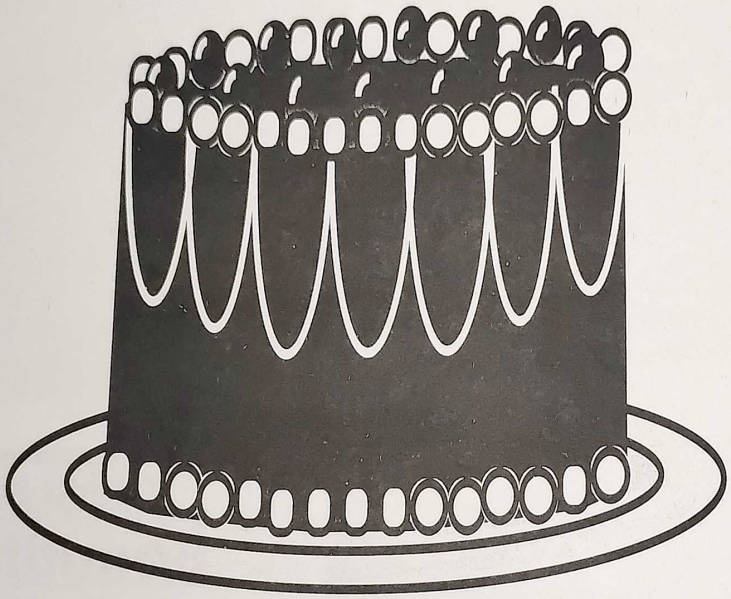

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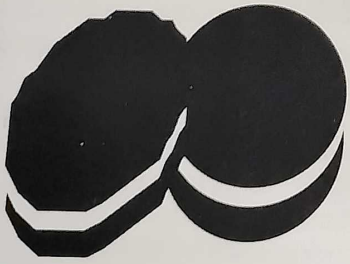

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